Having recently moved to Charlotte, junior Jeff Ciesielski has spent the last few weeks adjusting to life at Charlotte Catholic.

Jeff’s father had been working in Charlotte and living in Atlanta for the last seven years, but in January the company decided that he and his family needed to live here. This meant that the Ciesielskis had to find a new school for Jeff and his sister Jenni, who is a freshman at Catholic. A family friend and a visit to Charlotte helped them in this decision process.

“My mom heard about Charlotte Catholic from my sister’s friend who swims with her at the University of Tennessee and she decided to send my sister and me here after visiting,” said Jeff.

Jeff has enjoyed his first couple of weeks here, but acknowledges that there are many differences between Charlotte and Atlanta.

“Charlotte is definitely smaller but it also seems newer. And Lassiter is a public school with over 2000 students, so size and the Catholic influence are the main differences between my old school and Charlotte Catholic,” he said.

One way Jeff has achieved normalcy is through baseball. He was a standout player for Lassiter High School last year, and the timing of his arrival in Charlotte coincided with the beginning of Catholic’s varsity baseball workouts. By going to these workouts he has been able to meet new kids and at the same time participate in something he really enjoys. Jeff is confident that he can make an impact on Catholic’s team, and has set high standards for himself.

“My goals are to make the team, win the conference, go deep in the playoffs, and produce to the best of my abilities,” he said.

When Jeff isn’t playing baseball he likes listening to 90’s music, rap, and country. His favorite meal includes fried chicken and lemonade from Publix, a grocery store in Atlanta. His favorite color is purple, his favorite class is Spanish, and he wants to major in either accounting or economics in college.

Finally, one of the biggest problems Jeff faced when he moved here was teaching a whole new set of people how to pronounce his outrageously spelled last name. He’s heard thousands of different mispronunciations, and has grown used to the bewilderment of his teachers when they first see his name on the attendance list. So, for the record, it is pronounced SI-SELL-SKEE. Say it right when you first meet him and he might just give you a hug.